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HARRIS LAWRENCE T  
77 MONTEVIDEO 5720

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISC-00 FA-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-02 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAF-00 FA-01 PFS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
INRE-02 SSO-00 /055 W

EXCISE

-----P56951 151542Z /46

O P 151302Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5429

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HGTS CZ

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 5720

Z.O. 1165.: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, MILI, UY

SUBJ: CHAPTER TWO OF THE MCAULIFFE SAGA

USIA FOR ILA, ICP/M

REF: MONTEVIDEO 5688, (DTG 132102Z DEC 77)

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1. SUMMARY. PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS CONTINUED THE  
ATTACK ON MCAULIFFE IN A SERIES OF DISTORTED AND MIS-  
LEADING REPORTS. ONLY THE INDEPENDENT DAILY EL DIA  
GAVE OBJECTIVE COVERAGE. I TOLD BOTH THE FOREIGN  
MINISTER AND THE DEFENSE MINISTER THAT THE GOV  
SHOULD CLARIFY THE STORY BY PUBLISHING MCAULIFFE'S  
LUNCHEON TOAST BECAUSE OFFICIAL SOURCES ARE QUOTED.

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[REDACTED] SUBSEQUENTLY, TO OF THE THREE  
CINCS ISSUED CLARIFICATIONS. END SUMMARY

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2. MONTEVIDEO'S THREE MORNING PAPERS WEDNESDAY, DEC.  
14, FRONT-PAGED COVERAGE OF LT. GEN. MCAULIFFE'S DEC. 1  
PRESS CONFERENCE WITH PRO-GOVERNMENT EL PAIS CARRYING  
BANNER HEADING: "PENTAGON PRESSURE ON URUGUAYAN  
ARMED FORCES CAUSES DEEP ILL FEELING" AND SUBHEADED:  
"MILITARY CHIEFS ABSENT FROM U.S. GENERAL'S RECEPTION."  
THE FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ALSO CARRIED A FIVE-COLUMN  
COLOR PHOTO OF MCAULIFFE. EL PAIS ALSO CARRIED REPORTS  
PUBLISHED IN TUESDAY EDITION OF ITS AFTERNOON PAPER,  
MUNDO COLOR. THE LEADING MONTEVIDEO DAILY ALSO PUBLISHED,  
ON PAGE 5, EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS TAKEN FROM THE  
PRESS CONFERENCE UNDER THREE-COLUMN HEADING:

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY L. Man DATE 1/7/78

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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"MCAULIFFE: WE HAVE TALKED AS REAL FRIENDS."

3. NATIONALISTIC, PRO-MILITARY LA MANANA CARRIED A FOUR-COLUMN HEADING: "MCAULIFFE: STATEMENTS PROBABLY CAUSED ILL FEELING" UNDER A TWO-COLUMN PHOTO OF THE GENERAL. LA MANA LED OFF ITS STORY WITH REFERENCE TO MCAULIFFE'S REMARKS AT THE NAVAL CLUB LUNCHEON DECEMBER 12 AND FOLLOWED WITH PUBLICATION OF MCAULIFFE STATEMENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE AND SHORT SYNOPSIS OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

4. ON ITS EDITORIAL PAGE, LA MANA PUBLISHED A BLISTERING COMMENTARY ON THE MCAULIFFE VISIT UNDER THE HEADING, "A COARSE INSULT?" FOLLOWING SIX LONG

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PARAGRAPHS CRITICIZING U.S. POLICIES TOWARD URUGUAY, LA MANANA CONCLUDES ITS COMMENTARY WITH THE RHETORICAL QUESTION THAT PERHAPS "WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THE PRESUMED ATTITUDE OF LT.GEN. MCAULIFFE IS SIMPLY THE PRODUCT OF CONFUSION OR AN UNFOUNDED PRESS REPORT. OTHERWISE, IT WOULD BE DEPLORABLE TO SEE IN THIS EPISODE ANOTHER GROSS IMPROVISATION CAPABLE OF TARNISHING THAT 'LONG FRIENDSHIP AND CLOSE TIES' WHICH AS THE HIGH MILITARY VISITOR SAID--UNITE URUGUAY AND THE UNITED STATES 'FOR MORE THAN 162 YEARS' "

5. PRESTIGIOUS INDEPENDENT EL DIA, ON THE OTHER HAND, PLAYED UP ONLY THE PRESS CONFERENCE UNDER A FOUR-COLUMN HEADING, "HUMAN RIGHTS: U.S. MILITARY AGREE WITH CARTER." EL DIA ALSO CARRIED A TWO-COLUMN PHOTO OF MCAULIFFE, INTERESTINGLY, ALONGSIDE AN AFP REPORT FROM BUENOS AIRES UNDER THE TWO-COLUMN HEADING, "AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ARGENTINA." EL DIA ALSO PUBLISHED, ON PAGE 8, THE FULL TEXT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

6. NATIONALISTIC, PRO-MILITARY EL DIARIO, DECEMBER 13, GAVE STRAIGHT FORWARD COVERAGE OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WITH A DETAILED REPORT, ON ITS EDITORIAL PAGE, UNDER A FIVE-COLUMN HEADING, "MCAULIFFE: 'I HOPE RELATIONS BETWEEN URUGUAY AND THE U.S. WILL IMPROVE.' "

7. TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HEAVY WITH CHANNEL 10 AIRING ABOUT TEN MINUTES ON THE 8:00 EVENING NEWSCAST WHILE CHANNEL 4 CARRIED ABOUT FIVE MINUTES OF MCAULIFFE'S PREPARED STATEMENT AND SELECTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

8. RADIO COVERAGE WAS LIKEWISE HEAVY WITH CX-14 EL ESPECTADOR BROADCASTING EXTENSIVE PORTIONS OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE ON ITS 1:00 P.M. NEWSCAST WHICH

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IS LINKED UP ON A NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF FORTY INTERIOR STATIONS. SEVEN OTHER MONTEVIDEO STATIONS ALSO.

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COVERED THE PRESS CONFERENCE AND DEVOTED EXTENSIVE AIRTIME TO THE STORY DURING THEIR AFTERNOON AND EVENING NEWSCASTS.

9. AFTERNOON OF DEC. 14, NUMDO COLOR PUBLISHED ANOTHER DISTORTED REPORT, IN A PAGE 2 ARTICLE HEADED, "MCAULIFFE: NOBODY WENT TO HIS RECEPTION," TOGETHER WITH A PICTURE CAPTIONED, "AMBASSADOR PEZZULLO: A RECEPTION WITH FEW GUESTS." THE REPORT STATED THAT THE RECEPTION STOPPED AND HAD TO BE CALLED OFF FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER IT HAD BEGUN BECAUSE, IT SAID, "NOT A SINGLE MILITARY NOR CIVILIAN IN THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT ATTENDED." END UNCLASSIFIED  
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ACTION APA-14

INFO CCT-21 ISC-00 HA-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 FM-25 H-01  
INR-07 I-03 NSAE-00 PA-21 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
INRE-20 SSO-00 /255 W

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O F 151302Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5430

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HGTS 02

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 5700

USIA FOR ILA, IOF/M

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10. I CALLED CN FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA DEC. 14 TO REGISTER MY CONCERN ABOUT THE DISTORTIONS OF WHAT OCCURRED WHICH THE PRESS ATTRIBUTED TO OFFICIAL SOURCES. I ASKED THAT THE GOU ISSUE A CLARIFICATION. INASMUCH AS HE HAD ATTENDED THE LUNCHEON, I OBSERVED THAT HE KNEW THAT GENERAL MCAULIFFE HAD SAID NOTHING WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS CHARGED IN THE PRESS, AS "A PENTAGON DESIRE TO MANIPULATE THE URUGUAYAN ARMED FORCES." I THEN HANDED HIM A COPY OF MCAULIFFE'S TOAST WHICH HE READ VERY CAREFULLY, OBVIOUSLY SEARCHING FOR THE ALLEGEDLY INSULTING LANGUAGE.

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11. I THEN CALLED DEFMIN RAVENNA AND TOLD HIM THAT I THOUGHT THE GOU SHOULD PUBLISH A CLARIFICATION OF THE MISLEADING PRESS STORIES.

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15. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS EVENING OF  
DECEMBER 14, GENERAL VADORA SAID, "THESE ARE STORIES THAT THE  
PRESS HAS MANIPULATED IN WHICH WE ARE NOT ABLE IN ANY WAY TO  
INVOLVE OURSELVES. GENERAL PALADINI IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION  
CONCERNING WHETHER MCAULIFFE WAS ATTEMPTING TO MANIPULATE THE  
ARMED FORCES, REPLIED, "ABSOLUTELY NOT. THERE IS NOTHING LIKE  
THAT. WHAT THE AMERICAN GENERAL HAS SAID WILL NOT AFFECT IN  
ANY WAY THE URUGUAYAN ARMED FORCES." THESE STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN  
DISTRIBUTED OFFICIALLY BY THE GOU INFORMATION OFFICE.

END UNCLASSIFIED  
PEZZULLO  
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